

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH TW OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJECT: PEKING UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON THE TIEN AN MEN
INCIDENT

1. IN COURSE OF BRIEFING FOR CODEL PRICE DURING CAMPUS VISIT
APRIL 20, PEKING UNIVERSITY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE
CHAIRMAN HUANG HSING-PAI WAS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE TIEN AN MEN SQUARE EVENTS. IN RESPONSE, HUANG
INITIALLY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE SENDING OF WREATHS TO THE
SQUARE IN HONOR OF CHOU EN-LAI--AN ACTION HUANG ASCRIBED TO
PEOPLE'S "UNDERSTANDABLE" FEELING FOR CHOU--AND THE USE THAT
"BAD ELEMENTS" MADE OF THIS OCCASION, E.G. THEIR SPREADING RUMORS
THAT THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN WAS AGAINST CHOU. BUT LATER ON
HUANG SUGGESTED THAT SENDING WREATHS HAD AMOUNTED TO BEING
TAKEN IN BY THESE BAD ELEMENTS; HENCE ONLY ONE WREATH HAD
BEEN SENT FROM PEKING UNIVERSITY, AND THAT BY A TEACHER WHO
WAS "NOT VERY POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS ABOUT CLASS STRUGGLE."
THERE FOLLOW HUANG'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE TIEN AN MEN
INCIDENT.

2. (AFTER QUESTIONS BY CODEL MEMBERS INDICATING BELIEF THAT
CHOU, RATHER THAN TENG, HAD BEEN THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE
INCIDENT.) "I'LL GIVE YOU A FACTUAL ACCOUNT. THERE WAS A GREAT
FEELING OF COMMEMORATION FOR PREMIER CHOU AFTER HIS DEATH.
WE HAVE A TRADITION OF SWEEPING THE GRAVES OF RELATIVES ON
CHING MING (DAY). THIS IS STILL A TRADITION, THOUGH WE DON'T..
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ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW IT. BEFORE WE BURIED THE DEAD IN

GRAVES; NOW MOST ARE CREMATED. ON CHING MING THIS YEAR, APRIL 4, PEOPLE SENT WREATHS TO TIEN AN MEN SQUARE TO (COMMEMORATE) CHOU. THIS FEELING IS UNDERSTANDABLE. A GROUP OF BAD ELEMENTS MADE USE OF THE OCCASION. THEY SPREAD RUMORS THAT THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN WAS AGAINST CHOU. THUS THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE TO CARRY ON REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES. THE NUMBER OF BAD ELEMENTS WAS SMALL. THESE PEOPLE DID ANYTHING BUT COMMEMORATE CHOU. AFTER ARRESTING THEM, WE FOUND THEY WERE HOOLIGANS AND BAD ELEMENTS, OPPOSED TO CHAIRMAN MAO, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY. THEY ALSO OPPOSED CHOU. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD THING TO UTILIZE THE FEELINGS OF THE

PEOPLE FOR CHOU, BUT THEY WERE CAUGHT ON THE SPOT. EVERYTHING IS CLEAR NOW. WE CAN SEE THE REACTIONARY AND CHEATING CHARACTER OF THESE PEOPLE, AND THEIR ARROGANT, VICIOUS NATURE. OUR CONSTITUTION PROTECTS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT WE DO NOT ALLOW TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DEMONSTRATIONS TO CARRY ON COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTS. MANY WREATHS WERE SENT. CHING MING WAS ON APRIL 4; AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN CHING MING WAS OVER THAT THE WREATHS WERE REMOVED. BUT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS CAN FABRICATE ANYTHING WHEN THEY SET THEIR MINDS TO IT.

3. (AFTER QUESTION ON WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BAD ELEMENTS AFTER THEY WERE ARRESTED.) "THEY MUST BE TRIED. OUR CONSISTENT POLICY TOWARD SUCH PEOPLE IS LENIENCY TOWARD THOSE WHO CONFESS AND SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT. THE BAD ELEMENTS IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE BURNED CARS AND HURT PEOPLE. AREN'T THEY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES? BUT PROBABLY THE MAIN PERSON BEHIND THE INCIDENT WASN'T IN THE SQUARE. IT IS THOSE BEHIND-THE-SCENES PLOTTERS, RUMOR-MAKERS AND PERPETRATORS OF THE INCIDENT WHO ARE THE MOST VICIOUS."

4. A SHORT TIME LATER IN HIS PRESENTATION HUANG REITERATED THE LENIENCY-OR-SEVERE PUNISHMENT POLICY, ADDING THAT THE "MAIN BLOWS" WERE BEING DEALT TO THE "BEHIND-THE-SCENES WIRELLERS."

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5. STILL LATER, TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN HAD HELPED MAKE THE UNIVERSITY MORE VIGILANT HE SAID: "WHEN PEOPLE SENT WREATHS TO TIEN AN MEN, PEOPLE IN PEKING UNIVERSITY ALSO FELT THERE WERE BAD ELEMENTS BEHIND IT. WE FOUND THAT BAD ELEMENTS WERE SPREADING RUMORS. WE SAID WE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN AND USED BY THEM. AMONG ALL THE WREATHS SENT TO THE SQUARE, ONLY ONE FROM PEKING UNIVERSITY

WAS PRESENTED BY A STUDENT. (SOON AFTER HUANG SAID A TEACHER).
AFTER THE INCIDENT, OUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS HIGHER. TENG HSIAO-
PING IS SUPPORTER BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES. THE COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES ON TAIWAN APPROVE OF THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT.
THEY CLAIM THEY WILL ADMIT THE TIEN AN MEN COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES INTO THE KMT AS MEMBERS IN SPIRIT.

6. (IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON WHO HAD SENT THE WREATH.) A
TEACHER, AND HE IS CONTINUING TO TEACH. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE IF ONE
PERSON CHERISHES FEELING FOR CHOU AND MAKES A WREATH. THINGS
ARE DIFFERENT IF SOMEONE MAKES RUMORS.
THOMAS

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